

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A shadow mask comprising:

a mask body including a substantially rectangular effective area having a minor axis and a major axis extending at right angles to each other; and

a large number of electron beam passage apertures formed in the effective area, each of the electron beam passage apertures being formed of a communication hole connecting a larger hole opening in one surface of the effective area and a smaller hole opening in the other surface of the effective area,

in a cross section of the mask body in the major axis direction, a joint portion between the larger and smaller holes of each of at least the electron beam passage apertures in the central portion of the effective area being situated within a range of  $0.5 \pm 1/6$  in the thickness direction of the mask body from one of surface sides of the effective area, as the thickness of the mask body being represented by 1,

in a cross section of the mask body in the major axis direction, a joint portion between the larger and smaller holes of each of the electron beam passage apertures located on the major axis and in the peripheral portion of the effective area being situated closer to one of the surface sides of the effective area than the joint portion of each of the electron beam passages apertures in the central portion of the effective area, the larger hole being offset against the smaller hole in the direction of the major axis,

the joint portion of each of the electron beam passage apertures in a region between the minor axis of the effective area and a position at a distance of  $2L/3$  in the major-axis direction from the minor axis being situated within the range of  $0.5 \pm 1/6$  in the thickness

direction of the mask body from one of the surface sides of effective area, where L is the length from the minor axis of the effective area to a major-axis-direction end thereof, and the joint portion of each of the electron beam passage apertures in a region at the distance of  $2L/3$  or more in the major-axis direction from the minor axis of the effective area being situated outside the range of  $0.5 \pm 1/6$  in the thickness direction of the mask body.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A color cathode ray tube comprising:

an envelope including a substantially rectangular face panel having a phosphor screen on the inner surface thereof;

a shadow mask opposed to the phosphor screen; and  
an electron gun for emitting electron beams toward the phosphor screen through the shadow mask,

the shadow mask comprising a mask body including:

a substantially rectangular effective area having a minor axis and a major axis extending at right angles to each other and a large number of electron beam passage apertures formed in the effective area,

each of the electron beam passage apertures being formed of a communication hole connecting a larger hole opening in one surface of the effective area and a smaller hole opening in the other surface of the effective area,

in a cross section of the mask body in the major axis direction, a joint portion between the larger and smaller holes of each of at least the electron beam passage apertures in the central portion of the effective area being situated within a range of  $0.5 \pm 1/6$  in the thickness

direction of the mask body from one of surface sides of the effective area, as the thickness of the mask body being represented by 1,

in a cross section of the mask body in the major axis direction, a joint portion between the larger and smaller holes of each of the electron beam passage apertures located on the major axis and in the peripheral portion of the effective area being situated closer to one of the surface sides of the effective area than the joint portion of each of the electron beam passages apertures in the central portion of the effective area, the larger hole being offset against the smaller hole in the direction of the major axis,

the joint portion of each of the electron beam passage apertures in a region between the minor axis of the effective area and a position at a distance of  $2L/3$  in the major-axis direction from the minor axis being situated within the range of  $0.5 \pm 1/6$  in the thickness direction of the mask body from one of surface sides of the effective area, where L is the length from the minor axis of the effective area to a major-axis-direction end thereof, and  
the joint portion of each of the electron beam passage apertures in a region at the distance of  $2L/3$  or more in the major-axis direction from the minor axis of the effective area being situated outside the range of  $0.5 \pm 1/6$  in the thickness direction of the mask body.

5-6. (Cancelled)